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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 SCA-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /084 W
----------036775 131510Z /53
R 131450Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6041
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 11502

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PDEV, AO, UK
SUBJECT: ANGOLA: REPORT ON IMPRISONED MERCENARIES

1. THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS PASSED TO US A REPORT FROM HMG'S EMBASSY IN ROME WHICH DESCRIBES THE JULY 4 VISIT OF ITALIAN AMBASSADOR VECCHI IN LUANDA TO THE SEVEN BRITISH MERCENARIES IMPRISONED IN THE ANGOLAN CAPITAL. VECCHI ALD SAW THE TWO AMERICAN CAPTIVES.

2. BEGIN TEXT: VECCHI HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO SEE ALL 7 OF THE MERCENARIES INDIVIDUALLY AND NO RESTRICTIONS HAD BEEN PLACED ON HIM. ALL LOOKED IN GOOD HEALTH AND WERE IN RELATIVELY GOOD SPIRITS GIVEN THE SITUATION THEY WERE IN. JOHN NAMMOCK, WHO HAD HAD A BROKEN LEG, WAS NOW WALKING ALMOST NORMALLY THOUGH HE STILL APPEARED TO BE SUFFERING SOMEWHAT, PROBABLY, VECCHI THOUGHT, FROM THE
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AFTER EFFECTS OF AN OPERATION ON HIS LEG.
THE MAIN CONCERN OF ALL OF THEM WAS THAT NONE HAD RE-CEIVED EITHER LETTERS OR PARCELS SINCE LAST CHRISTMAS. THEIR GREATEST NEEDS WERE TOILETRIES, READING MATERIAL AND CIGARETTES.
VECCHI SAID THAT PRISON CONDITIONS LOOKED QUITE GOOD AND CLEAN. ALL 7 PLUS THE TWO AMERICANS WERE IN A SINGLE

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BUT VERY LARGE, CELL. ALL APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN WELL FED. THERE WERE NO COMPLAINTS ABOUT MEDICAL CARE AND ALL WERE SATISFIED WITH THE CONDUCT OF THEIR JAILERS. VECCHI'S ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION WAS THAT ANY APPROACH TO IMPROVE THE MEN'S CONDITIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE TO THE POLITICAL AUTHORITIES IN LUANDA, SINCE THE PRISON AUTHORITIES WERE ALREADY DOING WHAT THEY COULD WITHIN THEIR INSTRUCTIONS. VECCHI THOUGHT THAT WE (THE BRITISH) SHOULD NOW TRY TO ESTABLISH A DIALOGUE WITH THE ANGOLANS. (INTERPRETING VECCHI'S REPORT RACHELE SAID THA WHILE HE, VECCHI, WAS QUITE HAPPY TO CONTINUE TO EXER-CISE CONSULAR CARE HE DID NOT THINK THAT REQUESTS FROM HIM FOR IMPROVEMENTS WOULD CARRY MUCH WEIGHT UNLESS THEY WERE ALSO SEEN TO HAVE LONDON'S BACKING.) AS A FIRST STEP,VECCHI THOUGHT, IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR YOU TO SEND JORGE A LETTER OF THANKS FOR GRANTING HIM CONSULAR ACCESS. THIS IN HIS VIEW WOULD PROVIDE A USEFUL START-ING POINT FOR FUTURE CONTACTS. END TEXT

BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Concepts: REPORTS, MERCENARIES, PRISONERS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Errors: N/A
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Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
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